

For immediate release

A match made in *Homeshare*

“I wouldn’t have been able to stay in Oxford after graduating if it hadn’t been for Homeshare. Wendy and the whole family were so welcoming, it felt like home from home”. (Recent graduate, Eleanor)

Andy is such a thoughtful person. I find it very reassuring having him in the house and being able ask him to help out with every day things. My IT skills have come on no end since Andy has been giving me a bit of training!” (Homeowner, Rosemary)

Homeshare Oxford is an innovative scheme that helps older and younger people throughout Oxfordshire. It carefully matches those who need affordable accommodation with older people who have a spare room. In return for the accommodation, the sharer lends a hand with jobs around the home or companionship for up to 10 hours a week. Both parties pay a modest monthly fee to Homeshare Oxford to make the scheme sustainable.

Homeshare offers younger people, with the South East housing market out of reach, the opportunity, to live in a comfortable home. Homeshare takes the stress out of renting, by-passing high rentals, often sharing with a number of strangers.

For older people who have a room to spare, Homeshare provides help around the home and companionship as well as the chance to help out someone who needs an affordable place to live.

Sometimes a Homeshare match comes together at a time of crisis. Rosemary who welcomed Andy into her home found the support and help was invaluable at a particularly difficult time:

“Andy came at a time when I needed some extra support as my husband was very ill. He sadly died, but Andy stayed on. I think it is wonderful to have somebody who will be a companion or in the house at least”.

Penny Thewlis, Age UK Oxfordshire’s Chief Executive, said: “This is a pioneering scheme that tackles a number of tricky issues – affordable housing, social isolation and older people’s need for a bit of help around the home. We’d love more people to be part of it – there are huge benefits all round”.

For more information about Homeshare please visit our website www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/, email Homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01865 410 670.

Notes to Editors:

About Age UK Oxfordshire Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent local charity dedicated to giving older people in Oxfordshire comfort, support and opportunities and enabling them to love later life. We provide free local information, advice and support; commercial products and services; and research and campaign on the issues that matter to people in later life. We work with our national partner, Age UK, and our local Age UK partners in England. Our work focuses on five key areas: money matters, health and wellbeing, home and care, work and training and leisure and lifestyle.

You can find further information on all our services and volunteering opportunities by telephoning 0345 450 1276 or by visiting our website: www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire Age UK Oxfordshire is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered charity number 1091529 and company number 4328143).

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